

King Philip Regional School Committee
January 10, 2022– DRAFT
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093

Opening of Meeting:

Mr. Khan, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Recording of Meeting:

This meeting was not recorded.

Roll Call of Members:

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Mr. Eric Harmon, Ms. Sarah Ward, Mr. Jim Lehan
Plainville:	Mr. Christopher Brenneis, Mr. Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Mr. Trevor Knott, Mr. Marc Waxman

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Mr. Bruce Cates (arrived at 7:07PM)
Wrentham:	Ms. Grey Almeida

HS Student Council Representative: Ms. James

Public Comment:

Mr. Khan read into the Minutes the Public Participation procedures.

The following community members spoke during the Public Participation period:

1. Brian Tufts, Wrentham: Mask Mandate
2. Chris Suttile, Plainville: Is the Finance Subcommittee Meeting on 1/31/22 open to public attendance? Yes.

Mask Status Update:

Discussion ensued on the Mask Mandate. The DESE Commission has extended the mask requirement through February 28, 2022. The Department will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to evaluate the mask requirement beyond February 28.

Following discussion, Mr. Zinni indicated that the 80% threshold policy remains in effect. In alignment with statewide guidance, it is highly recommended that unvaccinated students and staff continue wearing masks. At the present time, according to a DESE statement, public school students and staff in all grades are required to wear a mask indoors and all visitors are expected to wear a mask in school buildings.

(Mr. Cates arrived at 7:07pm)

Discussion ensued on testing and the protocol on contact tracing.

Public Comment concluded at 7:12pm.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(All items listed in the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion if action is required.)

Minutes of December 20, 2021:

- A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Brenneis, to approve the Consent Agenda dated January 10, 2022, including the Minutes of December 20, 2021, as presented. All in favor: Yes (7); No (0); Abstain (1-Lehan). Motion carried 7-0-1

Communication:

HS Student Council Report – Miss James, HS Student Council Representative, presented her report dated January 10, 2022.

Delegations and Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Superintendent, Dr. Gilson, Assistant Superintendent

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

None

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

District Update:

Mr. Zinni shared information on the following topics:

- Congratulations were extended to Mrs. Lisa Witkus on the announcement of her retirement on March 15, 2022, as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Committee for the past 15 years.
- Testing for Staff: Tests were received from the state and the administrators were able to reallocate the tests to over 300 staff members prior to the reopening of school following the Winter Break. KN95 Masks were also distributed. Mr. Zinni reviewed the guidelines to quarantine for five days and the Test & Stay program is still available, however, contact tracing is no longer being done by the district.
- Congratulations to the DECA and Mr. Dow, Advisor. All DECA Teams qualified from regional to states.

Early College Initiative:

Mr. Zinni gave an update on the Early College Initiative. Dr. Gilson is currently working on an EC grant due at the end of this week. This is a very competitive grant supporting 11 districts in the consortium which includes King Philip. Mr. Zinni is pleased to announce that the district is moving forward with the initiative with Middlesex Community College and courses will be offered in the 22/23 HS Program of Studies. Nine KP faculty members have been approved as adjunct professors beginning in September 2022. Students will be able to take college courses for college credit with our teachers teaching those courses at a significantly reduced rate for a college course. The criteria for staff members are that they have to hold a master's degree in the content area. This program and implementation would be offered in September and will be communicated to parents and students once the program of studies is approved by the Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Superintendent Goals for 2021-2022:

Mr. Zinni presented his goals for the 2021-2022.

- A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2021-2022, as presented. All in favor: Yes (7); No (0); Abstain (1-Brenneis). Motion carried 7-0-1

Review of Superintendent's Evaluation Process:

Mr. Zinni provided the Committee with an overview of the superintendent's evaluation process. All members participate in the superintendent's evaluation, with the exception of Mr. Brenneis who will abstain from this process. DESE evaluation tools and personal goals are agreed upon with the evaluator. The End of Cycle Summative Evaluation Tool is provided in a Google document tied to the standards and indicators. Members respond via the Google document and their responses are calculated for a final evaluation.

Discussion was held on future goal setting so that members get a shared understanding of what it means for a Smart Goal as an intention of the committee. For the School Committee, every single goal should meet the definition of a Smart Goal and understand what that means and to hold the Committee accountable. Mr. Zinni suggested this would be an excellent project to work on collaboratively during the summer retreat and see how it ties together to the strategic plan and professional development.

Discussion ensued on accessibility of school committee documents posted on the KP website and having a quick link for these reference documents.

Mr. Cates suggested that if any members have any questions or comments about the evaluation process to have a conversation ahead of completing the evaluation tool.

Discussion ensued that successful completion of milestones per the benchmark schedule are pre-pandemic. The suggestion was made that we are in an unknown world with the pandemic and somehow it should be adjusted in the evaluation so that it is not lost in the narrative.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dress Code Policy:

Mr. Zinni presented a policy language change to the Student Dress Code policy relating to the wearing of hoods and hats at the MS which is a considerable problem. The policy was vetted by Attorney Joyce and the staff has asked that this policy be revisited. This would change the Dress Code in the Handbook and if approved communication would go out to parents on the change.

REORGANIZATION:

Mr. Khan announced that he is stepping down from the School Committee and as Chair. Mr. Zinni will invite Mr. Khan back to a meeting in March to say a proper goodbye and commend him for his service to the district.

With Mr. Khan leaving the Committee, there will be a vacant Plainville elected seat. Mr. Zinni indicated that Mr. Knott will now become chair, if he accepts, which he does. A new vice chair will need to be elected by the Committee. Mr. Khan asked for nominations of vice chair. Mr. Lehan nominated Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Harmon. Mr. Cates accepted the nomination as vice chair. There was no further discussion or nomination.

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Harmon, to nominate Mr. Cates as Vice Chair. All in favor: Yes (8); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 8-0-0**

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

Mr. Zinni provided an update on upcoming meeting dates for subcommittees:

- Policy Subcommittee Meeting: Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 6:30pm (Remote Meeting)
- Finance Subcommittee Meeting, Monday, January 31, 2022, at 7pm
- Negotiations Subcommittee meeting dates to be determined for Units A, C and D
- Subcommittee Reorganization: Mr. Brenneis will replace Mr. Khan as the Plainville representative on the Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Cates will replace Mr. Khan as the Plainville representative on Unit A, Unit D Negotiations Subcommittee.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Norfolk School Committee Representative: Ms. Ward – No update at this time.
- Plainville School Committee Representative: Mr. Brenneis – Announcement of Mrs. Rieger, Executive Assistant’s retirement in December 2021; MCAS results; public comment from nurses seeking additional support.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Ms. Almeida – No update at this time.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mr. Knott will not be available to attend to the February 7, 2022, Meeting (FY23 Budget Public Hearing)

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- **At 8:25pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to adjourn into Executive Session for the following purposes:**
No. 1: To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health, rather than professional competence of an individual, or to discuss the disciplinary or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. (Correspondence to School Committee); and
No. 3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares. (KPTA Units A, C, D); and, to return to open session solely for the purpose of Adjournment. All in favor: Yes (8); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 8-0-0

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:05pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mrs. Elisa B. Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents presented on January 10, 2022:

Agenda, January 10, 2022

Draft Minutes of December 20, 2021

Payment of Bills/Warrants

HS Student Council Report

Dress Code Policy